Year	Paddy	Wheat	Gram
1998-99	440 (Common) 470 (Grade 'A')	550	895
1999-2000	490 (Common) 520 (Grade 'A')	580	1015

*Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 60.00/Qtl. payable upto 30th June, 1997.
**Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 55.00/Qtl. payable from 1-1-98 to 30-6-98.

Enquiry against DG, ICAR

2896. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was indicted by a Vigilance Committee over the purchase of a computer system and on the CBI recommendations he was removed from his post while the inquiry was pending;

(b) if so, whether the Vigilance Committee's inquiry report has been sent to the CBI or CVC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Allegations against the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have been enquired into by Sh. Bhaskar Barua, formerly Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation who has since taken voluntary retirement from Government service on 26th February, 2001. The report is under process.

Problem of Indebtedness among Farmers

2897. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been appointed by Government to study the problem of indebtedness among farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) With a view to assessing the incidence of indebtedness among farmers, a survey is conducted decennially by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and the last such survey was conducted by NSSO with July 1991—June 1992 as the reference period. The details of the outcome of this survey is annexed as Statement (*See* below). In addition to this, a High Level Committee on indebtedness among farmers in the States of Punjab and Haryana was constituted by the Government of India in 1997. The recommendations of the Committee *inter-alia* include procedural and policy changes in the matter of collateral/security margin, system of sanctioning and disbursement of crop loans and strengthening of input support system of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies. These are under implementation by the Departments/Agencies concerned.

Statement

Details of the outcome of the study of NSSO during each of the last years

Incidence of indebtedness and debt asset ratio of households

Item	Year	Rural Households		
		Cul-tivators	Non-cul-tivators	All
1	2	3	4	5
Incidence of indebtedness (Per cent)	1971	46.10	34.30	42.80
	1981	22.30	12.40	20.00
	1991	25.90	18.50	23.40
Average debt per house-hold (Rs.)*	1971	605	223	500
	1981	803	205	661
	1991	2294	1151	1906
Average asset holding per household (Rs.)*	1971	14627	2613	11311
	1981	44525	8973	36090
	1991	142308	38180	107007

*At respective years prices.

1	2	3	4	5
Debt asset ratio (Per cent)	1971	4.13	8.53	4.42
	1981	1.80	2.28	1.83
	1991	1.61	3.01	1.78

Hospital for Earthquake Victims

†2898. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the earthquake in Gujarat a sophisticated hospital with the capacity of five hundred beds sponsored by the International Red Cross Society and operated with the funds of Finland, Norway and Germany could not reach Bhuj till the 30th January;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the erring officers responsible for this negligence while the country is passing through the critical situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Indian Red Cross Society has informed that intimation about 350 bedded hospital was received by them through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on 28th January, 2001. The matter relating to landing of the aircraft of National Societies of Finland, Norway and Germany was immediately taken up with this Department and after necessary clearance, the consignment of the hospital was received and immediately installed at Bhuj on 30.1.2001.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.